

January 2012
Volume 14, Issue 1

Secular Franciscan Order
Five Franciscan Martyrs Region
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity
St. Petersburg, Florida



Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity meets every third Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Auditorium of Saint Anthony's Hospital, 1200 Seventh Avenue North, Saint Petersburg, FL 33705.

Fraternity Officers

Minister:

Joe Halloran, SFO

Spiritual Assistant:

Fr. Gerald Dolan, OFM

Vice Minister:

Jim Prior, SFO

Secretary:

Ann Hill, SFO

Treasurer:

Maria Halloran, SFO

Formation Director:

Jim Prior, SFO

Councilors-at-Large:

Martha Dilley, SFO

Ann Hill, SFO

Rose Tomassi, SFO

Formation Team:

Jim Prior, SFO

Fr. Gerald Dolan, OFM

D. Susan Pivec, SFO

Kathryn Maynard, SFO

Newsletter Editor:

Maria Halloran, SFO

(727) 230-2970

mchalloran@earthlink.net

SECULAR FRANCISCAN NEWS

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity Monthly Newsletter

The Minister's Message

by Joe Halloran, SFO

Dear Friend,

Oh, the wonder of it all! As a Franciscan, do you find yourself more than ever attracted and enraptured by the sheer beauty and majesty of the sacred gift of life?!

Of course, beauty and majesty can also be sensed and seen – even though less intimately – in cultures not acquainted with the Saviour of the world. Folk throughout the world, whether they are consciously aware of it or not, are seeking and longing for the Saviour, the Bridegroom of their souls. The beauty and majesty that so enrich and enrapture us are, in fact, an ever-so-faint mirroring of the Divine Majesty and Beauty of our Redeemer and of our Heavenly Father and of Their Holy Spirit – our Triune God. This all works in countless ways, whether in the small town of China in Maine, or in the massive country of China in the Orient, or elsewhere throughout the world.

Traditionally, for example, Chinese painters would spend some time in the mountains before putting brush to canvas. They would not “dive right into” any painting they planned to undertake, because quick, impulsive actions tend to weaken the sense of peace and calm and awe. Chinese and other painters generally eschew the habit of hurrying, of rushing pell-mell through life, choosing instead to “make haste slowly,” as an old Latin proverb puts it, and those painters, if they are “worth their salt,” consciously focus on beauty and grace and tranquility and the wonders of nature, and the wonder simply of being alive. The result is a deep sense of transcendent peace, and a readiness to create a work of beauty on canvas. And so the paintings usually turn out to be filled with life and peace and beauty.

God has given us the astonishing gift of nature, and when we allow such a gift – with its beauty and majesty and grace and peace – to enter into our spirit, whilst we bear in mind the Giver of such largesse, our spirit is enriched and enlivened and ennobled and calmed and refreshed.

By God's grace, our soul is a *Franciscan* soul, which all the more attunes us to the workings of God's Holy and Gentle and Gracious Spirit in our lives. Let us, then, more and more, open the door of our soul to welcome the gifts of beauty and grace and peace and light and love and sacraments and sacramentals and saints and angels and God's people and our Blessed Mother and our Triune God. How our souls will soar! Oh, the wonder of it all!

God love you, dear Friend.

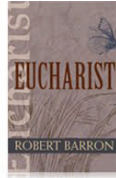
In the Peace and Love and Joy of the Lord,
Joe Halloran, SFO



Spring Mountains by
Zhao Bo-Ju
Source: [www.art-virtue.com/
painting/history/sung/
sung.htm](http://www.art-virtue.com/painting/history/sung/sung.htm)

Timely Tips by Joe Halloran, SFO

I'm going to ask you to get ahold of a book and a DVD. Read the book first, and then watch the film. I know that you love our Eucharistic Lord very much, but I also know that if you obtain the book and the DVD (perhaps through the library or Amazon or a local bookstore), your love for our Saviour will deepen... and I mean **deepen**. Encourage your kith 'n kin to get the book and film, too; I believe they will be deeply grateful to you ... and to God.



Okay ... do you have a quill or a fountain pen or a ballpoint pen or a computer or an ipad or a bit of chalk or some other writing device nearby? Good! You're good to go: The book referred to above is titled *Eucharist*, and the author is Fr. Robert Barron. (Fr. Barron is the priest who put out that stunningly beautiful DVD series titled *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith*, part of which you might have seen on the "teley," as my dear mother – *Requiescat in pace* – would call it.)

The DVD is titled *Babette's Feast*, and the story was written by Isak Dinesen, whose real name was Karen Blixen. Even if you've already seen the film, I think you'd do well to give it another go, this time in conjunction with Fr. Barron's above-cited book, *Eucharist*.



As Fr. Barron said, "Dinesen's story is about many things – friendship, loss, religious devotion, sensual delight, loyalty – but it is, I think, primarily about the Eucharist." Fr. Barron also said that "the spiritual life depends upon the Eucharist the way the physical life depends upon food, oxygen, and water." And here's more from the gifted Fr. Barron: "The Eucharist is not a luxury, but a necessity, for without it, we would, in the spiritual sense, starve to death."

Dear Friend, Fr. Barron's book and "*Babette's Feast*" will truly, truly be a feast for your soul!

A certain prayer, a favorite prayer of Pope John Paul I (that's not a typo ... it really is JPI), is a favorite prayer of mine, too, and now, maybe it's about to become one of *your* favorites. John Paul I, "the Smiling Pope," said: "This very well-known prayer was inspired by words from the Bible. My mother taught it to me, and I still pray it repeatedly throughout the day."



Pope John Paul I

Maybe you know the prayer already, but then again, maybe you don't. So, I'm going to bring it front and center for you, and I believe you, in turn, might like to share it with

Happy Birthday!



- Michael Albano, SFO – Feb. 3
- D. Susan Pivec, SFO – Feb. 7
- Frederic Wheeler, SFO – Feb. 12
- Joan Irwin – Feb. 22
- Joanne Greenslade, SFO – Feb. 24



Please pray for...



- John and Jeannette Abramo, Dottie Blaich (friend of Elizabeth Wincelowicz), Armand Bonin (friend of Joe and Maria Halloran), Sandra Cich (friend of Elizabeth Wincelowicz), David Grissett, John Hill (brother of Ann Hill), Bob Jennings (nephew of Elizabeth Wincelowicz), Lillian McClelland, Deacon Ric and Pam Nagle, David Prior (son of Jim Prior), Sam, Sandra (both Sandra and Sam are friends of Frederica Soles), Karen Szczesniak and her son Joseph, Ana Wincelowicz (daughter-in-law of Elizabeth Wincelowicz)
- the happy repose of the souls of all our Franciscan brothers and sisters from the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity
- election results that will be pleasing to our Father-God
- world peace.

A Marian Moment

"The more a soul is consecrated to Mary, the more it is consecrated to Jesus."

- St. Louis Marie de Montfort



"all and sundry." What an uplifting prayer to say and savor "repeatedly throughout the day," as JPI did!

"O my God, I love You above all things with all my heart, You Who are infinitely good and our eternal happiness. Out of love for You, I love my neighbor as myself and forgive any injustice which I have suffered. Lord, grant that I may love You more and more! Amen."

Servant of God John Paul I prayed the above Act of Love at the beginning of his last general audience in September 1978. If that prayer were his only legacy, that would be legacy enough, so beautiful a prayer it is.

Message from the Formation Director

by Jim Prior, SFO

Today Richard Gladd becomes a Candidate, the final leg on the journey for Profession in Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order. He has been steadfast in his progress despite a demanding work schedule. Sometimes he has worked all night before coming to our monthly meeting. We praise him for his efforts and encourage him to keep going to Profession.



Richard Gladd



Jim Gillis

Jim Gillis begins the intermediate level of Inquirer today. He, too, has been very enthusiastic and committed to our Fraternity. Jim, a former Grand Knight of the Saint Petersburg Knights of Columbus, has many other demands on his devotion to our Church, but he keeps focused on our Fraternity and makes sacrifices to continue on the road to Profession.

Thank God for these wonderful men, and may we all keep praying that more and more outstanding people will seek full membership in our Fraternity.

Oddly Enough...

by Joe Halloran, SFO

A man in North Carolina tried to buy \$476 worth of goods in Walmart, but the cashier wouldn't cash the man's check so that he could make his purchase, receive his change and be on his way. Was the cashier having a "bad hair day" and taking it out on the customer? Nope. The shopper had presented a check in the amount of \$1,000,000. Yep ... one million smackeros! And the customer insisted that his check was authentic. An employee called the cops, who came and hauled the would-be buyer/millionaire off to the slammer. Bail was set for \$17,500.

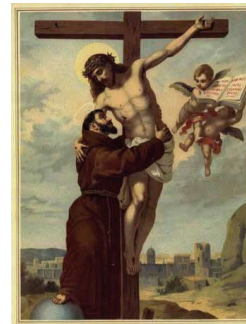
It's odd what money can do to some folk – many folk – isn't it? No wonder the American writer Washington Irving facetiously referred to money as "the Almighty Dollar"!

A quick money joke: A recently spotted bumper sticker here in Saint Petersburg (Florida, not Russia) announces: "Due to budget cuts, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off."

The Call of the Mild*

by Jim Prior, SFO

Ever wonder why you
Are a Franciscan?
God called you.
Jesus Christ wanted you
To get closer to Him
By getting closer to Saint Francis,
Who was very close to Him.
So He called you...
Not on the phone...
Or through a message on television.
But He called you through someone else.
A Franciscan probably asked you
If you had ever thought
Of being a Franciscan?
And you said "Yes."
He or she asked,
And you said "Yes." You persevered
Right up to Profession,
As our Seekers, Inquirers,
And Candidates are doing right now.
They are saying "Yes"
As we all say "Yes."
We want to be closer to Christ,
And Francis' way is one good way
To do that.
Thank God for the call.
Thank God for the "Yes."
And thank God for everything
The Lord has blessed us with
During our journey on earth.
With more to come . . . Amen!



* "Holy Infant, so tender and mild"

Loneliness

by David Grissett, SFO

Loneliness, what do I mean? Surprise! I am not saying "loneliness" in the sense that there is no one around. I am talking about a few moments spent with one's self and Jesus, to share with Him some of our problems and hopes. We all have problems and hopes. There is no way of getting away from them. But, experiencing a relationship with Him reduces the feeling of loneliness.

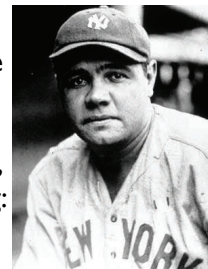
This experience will bring about a NEW HOPE that Jesus will lead us down the road of complete trust in His great mercy to us!

QUOTABLE & NOTABLE

by Joe Halloran, SFO

- “Unless you’re living life in union with God’s will, you’re actually shortchanging yourself and not living much of a life at all.” – Anthony Rossi [Sidebar: Anthony (“Tony”) Rossi can be found on The Christophers’ Web site, where you can listen to his engaging podcast interviews, and, too, where you can read a plethora of valuable articles. Click www.christophers.org.]
- “A person whose heart is not content is like a snake who tries to swallow an elephant.” – Chinese Proverb [Aesop and Shakespeare would like to chime in here: “He who is discontented in one place will seldom be happy in another.” – Aesop. “My crown is called content, a crown that seldom kings enjoy.” – William Shakespeare]
- “To love the Church is to love Jesus Christ, and vice versa.” – Saint Eugene de Mazenod
- “Put all excuses aside and remember this: YOU are capable.” – Zig Ziglar
- “Men will surrender to the spirit of the age.” – St. Anthony the Great (c. 251-356) [Talk about being far-sighted! St. Anthony of the Desert, who lived so many centuries ago, predicted that many future grumblers and malcontents would whine and belly ache that “the Church must be brought up to date.” How many times have we heard that same superficial complaint that the great St. Anthony predicted we’d hear?!] [Sidebar: St. Anthony of Padua took his first name from the above-cited St. Anthony the Great, a.k.a. St. Anthony of the Desert.]
- “From listening comes wisdom.” – Italian Proverb [That’s true, isn’t it? But it’s surely *not* true if we allow TV and radio stations and newspapers to pour their poison into our homes!]
- “God does not give us so much light regarding His existence that we are forced to accept Him, and He does not give us so little light that we could never find Him, but He gives us just enough light so that those who have the goodwill, and desire to seek Him, and to live in accord with His will, will find Him.” – Peter Kreeft
- “Domus amica, domus optima. (“A loved home is the best home.”) – Latin Proverb
- Atheism: “a disease of the soul.” – Plato [Good ole Anonymous defines atheism as “the suicide of the soul.” What a ghastly thought ... to destroy one’s own soul... or the souls of others!]
- “The miracle is not to fly in the air but to walk on the earth.” – Chinese Proverb

Babe Ruth hit 714 homeruns in his career, 659 of them whilst playing for the New York Yankees. That’s impressive, for sure, but let’s keep in mind the famous dictum of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, who would ask of any great feat or failing: “What is this in the light of eternity?”



Babe Ruth

The “Bambino” himself knew, when on his deathbed, with copious tears flowing, that what he was about to do – receive our Blessed Saviour in Holy Communion – was **infinitely** more important and precious than all the homeruns and gold and jewels and money and possessions in the world.

A Quaker missionary, writer, and scholar, Thomas R. Kelly, often said that it was Francis, “that little poor man of God who came nearer to re-living the life of Jesus than has any other man on earth.”

Three out of six actors in a Chinese play were recently stolen! Okay, the actors were only puppets, but still, the show must go on, right? And it did go on. The puppeteers jury-rigged three non-Chinese puppets to make them look authentic, and so the audience of elementary school children in Kahului, Hawaii had a good time after all. Meanwhile, if you ever run into a puppet named Chang, or if you see Chang’s Mom, or the puppet known as Nobu (he’s a minstrel), the police in Hawaii would love to hear from you. (Joking aside, those stolen puppets cost 10,000 bucks! But what’s St. Anthony’s “specialty”? Yes! Finding lost articles! So...could you spare a prayer to our dear Paduan friend? A prayer for the thief surely wouldn’t hurt, either.)

What a shock in West York! West York is in Pennsylvania, and so is a man whose toolbox was stolen there recently. What makes the case unusual is that one day a man and woman showed up at the victim’s place of work and tried to sell him his own tools! They didn’t realize the victim was the owner. Anyway, the owner called the police who, accordingly, apprehended the accused couple and reunited the victim with his own tools. (Have you ever wondered: “How might I convince a thief or other miscreant and his/her victims that God loves them with a boundless, limitless love?” Consider: immortal souls are at stake here!)